

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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14

ACTION MMO-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 ABF-01 SS-15 SP-02 PER-03

NSC-05 OMB-01 COME-00 /049 W

----- 102137

R 300730Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9822

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3830

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, APER, BEXP

SUBJECT: REPROGRAMMING OF E/C POSITIONS

REF: STATE 101921

1. IN OCTOBER 1975, THE ECONOMIC SECTION HAD A FULL COMPLEMENT OF NINE AMERICAN PERSONNEL: ONE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, O-2; ONE E/C OFFICER, O-4; TWO COMMERCIAL OFFICERS, O-3 AND O-5; ONE CIVIL AIR ATTACHE RU-3; TWO TRADE OFFICERS, O-3 AND GS-14; AND TWO SECRETARIES S-6 AND S-7. OF THESE POSITIONS, THE CIVIL AIR ATTACHE POSITION AND THE TWO TRADE OFFICER POSITIONS WERE PERMANENTLY RELOCATED; ONE COMMERCIAL OFFICER POSITION WAS GIVEN UP; THE INCUMBENTS OF THE /C POSITION, COMMERCIAL OFFICER POSITION AND ONE SECRETARY POSITION WERE EVACUATED AND SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSFERRED, LEAVING THE E/C COUNSELOR AND ONE SECRETARY IN THE ECONOMIC SECTION. ALL OF THESE ACTIONS WERE TAKEN BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON.

2. OF THE FIVE POSITIONS REMAINING (E/C COUNSELOR, E/C OFFICER, COMMERCIAL OFFICER AND TWO SECRETARIES) THE POST CAN GIVE UP THE COMMERCIAL OFFICER. THE POST MUST RETAIN THE SECOND SECRETARY IN ECONOMIC SECTION TO FILL IN FOR ABSENCE IN OTHER SECTIONS CAUSED BY PERSONS TAKING SICK LEAVE, ANNUAL LEAVE AND HOME LEAVE AS DESCRIBED IN BEIRUT 3675.

3. REGARDING REQUEST MADE IN PARA 3.C. OF REFTTEL FOR INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS, POST HAS SHIPPED FILES TO SAFE-UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVEN FOR EMERGENCY STORAGE INCLUDING THE JUNE, 1974

INSPECTOR'S REPORT. ALTHOUGH THE INSPECTOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ANSWERED BY THE POST, EVENTS SINCE THEN HAVE CHANGED POST REQUIREMENTS. ASSUMING THE SITUATION IN BEIRUT WILL NOT RETURN TO NORMAL BY FY 78, POST EXPECTS ITS WORK REQUIREMENTS CAN BE HANDLED BY E/C COUNSELOR, O-3 OR O-4 LEVEL, WHO WOULD HAVE TO HAVE GOOD GENERAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE ECON/COMMERCIAL FIELD. HE WOULD, IN ADDITION, HAVE TO HAVE EXPERT BACKGROUND IN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND REPORTING AND IN FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AND REPORTING. THE SECOND OFFICER, WHO COULD BE CALLED COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, SHOULD BE AT O-4 OR O-5 LEVEL. WHILE HAVING GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRADITIONAL ECON/COMMERCIAL SPECTRUM, HIS SPECIALITY WOULD BE IN THE FIELD OF TRADE PROMOTION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH THE WORK OF A COMMERCIAL ATTACHE.

4. THIS PROJECTION DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT A SITUATION WHERE NORMALIZED CONDITIONS WOULD BE FULLY RESTORED AND COMMERCIAL AND BANKING ACTIVITIES WOULD REBOUND. NOR DOES IT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT STAFFING THAT MIGHT WELL BE NEEDED IN CONNECTION WITH THE HUGE RECONSTRUCTION THAT THE COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO FACE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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